



AHA Chapter

THE NEWSLETTER OF

The HUMANIST ASSOCIATION of CENTRAL CONNECTICUT

September 2001



ASHS Affiliate

Are you paying too much for drugs?

Please note that this meeting will be held on Sunday, September 16 at 3:00 p.m.!

The high costs of prescription drugs affect us all. For many, drugs are a major cost of living, alongside food and housing; some simply can't pay for the medicines needed. Drugs are the fastest growing expense of healthcare, and today's advances in biology make possible a proliferation of costly drugs far greater than ever before. In addition, the pharmaceutical companies are making record profits while charging people in other countries much less than Americans pay for the exact same products.

On September 16 Manny Ratafia will discuss how the prices paid for medications are affected by doctors, pharmaceutical and biotech companies, employers, governments, and your behavior as a consumer.

Manny will take on some difficult questions:

- What can be done about this situation?
- What alternatives do individuals have?
- How can our doctors help us and why don't they help more?
- What should our government do?
- Why do we get little help from the news media in answering these difficult questions?

Manny has consulted and published reports on biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and other technology-based industries. His research and opinions have been published and quoted in more than 100 general, trade and scientific publications in the U.S., Europe, and Japan, including *Business Week*, *Forbes*, *Fortune*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times*. He has been interviewed on national and international television programs and on U.S. radio programs. His

Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

Thu., 13	Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury	7:00 p.m.
Sun., 16	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.	3:00 p.m.
	Main program: Manny Ratafia <i>The High Cost of Prescription Drugs</i>	3:30 p.m.
Sun., 23	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	2:00 p.m.
Fri., 28	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Costs of prescription drugs.	7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

Thu., 11	Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 15	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	Main program. Drs Robert & Lois Wolsch - <i>Assuring Literacy in Spite of Plato's Roadblocks</i>	8:00 p.m.
Fri., 19	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. <i>Tuesdays with Morrie.</i>	7:30 p.m.
Sun., 21	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER

Fri., 2	Humanist Conversations at 700 Hartford Turnpike. Planning meeting.	7:30 p.m.
Thu., 8	Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 19	Monthly meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation.	7:30 p.m.
	Main program. Mickey Koth - <i>Pat Duffy Hutcheon, Humanist Shero</i>	8:00 p.m.
Sun., 25	Board meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike.	2:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

Thu., 6	Dinner at MisFitz Inn, 57 Oak Tree Rd. Southbury	7:00 p.m.
Mon., 17	Annual meeting, USNH, 700 Hartford Turnpike. Coffee and conversation. Elections and Solstice Party	7:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

reports have been purchased by the major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies as well as governments, universities and consulting firms throughout the world. He has also published several newsletters, including *TMG's Pharmaceutical Pricing Monitor*.

Join us Sunday, September 16 at 3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden, when Manny will provide an unusual insider, yet humanist, perspective on a serious problem which affects us all.

Another Shero!

She's back! Mickey Koth will present another of her popular *Humanist Sheroes* series, this time on Pat Duffy Hutcheon, recipient of the 2001 American Humanist Association Distinguished Service Award.

Bring a friend to this long-awaited installment on Monday, November 19, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven, 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden.

Refreshments and light conversation will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by the evening's presentation at 8:00 p.m.

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The deadline for each issue is three weeks prior to the monthly meeting.

The editor would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue.

www.cthumanist.org

Three Months of Conversation

One of our less formal activities is our *Humanist Conversations* series. Held once a month at the Unitarian Society of New Haven (700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden), we enjoy a lively conversation.

In September bring your concerns and experience with the high cost of prescription drugs on Friday, September 28, at 7:30 p.m.

On Friday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. come and enjoy a segment of the TV series version of *Tuesdays with Morrie*. The following discussion will surely salve that part of the humanist which some refer to as "spirituality," without taking on the present-day otherworldly connotations.

As usual, we will order out for pizza and light refreshment will be served. The cost is usually between \$5 and \$10 per person.

For a finale to the year, we'll meet to plan future topics on November 2 at 7:30 p.m. Bring your interests, ideas, newspaper clippings and appetite. The pizza for this event will be free.

Assuring Literacy in Spite of Plato

Drs Robert & Lois Wolsch will disturb and enlighten their audience with a shocking exposure of how traditional school organization and practices, influenced by Plato and his followers, have created roadblocks to children's literacy. They will offer workable solutions and an invitation to discuss America's major educational issues so that we can overcome the problems and move the school bus down the highway to literacy and justice for all.

The Wolsches' new *Literacy Assured* series, published by Philadelphia-based Xlibris Press, consists of: "The Foibles of Phonics: And Other Roadblocks to Literacy," "Writers All Around Us: A Search & Enjoy Mission for Parents and Teachers," "Learning Through Speaking: 810 Performance-Based Language Lessons," and "Language Arts to Communication Arts: Reorganizing for Tomorrow's Literacy."

Join us on Monday, October 15, at the Unitarian Society of New Haven at the Unitarian Society of New Haven located at 700 Hartford Turnpike in Hamden for this vision of a future where literacy is guaranteed for all. The evening will begin as usual at 7:30 p.m. with half an hour of informal conversation with refreshments, and the program will start promptly at 8:00 p.m.

Mystic/Noank Discussion Series

The Mystic/Noank discussion group will meet on Saturday, September 15. As last year, a picnic will start the discussion series. It will take place at Esker Point Beach from 11:30 to 2:30 or so. Please bring your own food and a folding chair. We will supply drinks. In case of inclement weather we will picnic at our home. for more information and directions a phone George Marcus at (860) 572-9188 or e-mail gminnoank@worldnet.att.net.

For discussion during or after lunch:

1. Future agenda.
2. Human Cloning - Bring your research and insight.

MEMBERSHIP

Adult \$35
Family \$50
Newsletter Only \$10

In cases of financial hardship, the association may waive the membership fee. Please mail checks for annual membership payable to Humanist Association of Central Connecticut to: Humanist Association of Central Connecticut, 27 Thornton Street, Hamden, CT 06517-1321.

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